

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of July 15, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 10-13 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Crouse (U.S. Patent No. 4,231,272).

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 10 recites a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid into an area where a strip leaves a roll in a direction generally opposite to a direction of travel of the strip.

Crouse discloses delivery manifold ducts **38, 39** including orifice slots **32, 33**, respectively. Although fluid passes through the slots **32, 33**, the fluid passes in a direction generally the same as a direction of travel of a trim strip **T**. The arrow extending from the trim strip **T** in FIGURE 1 and the arrow extending from the slots **32, 33** in FIGURE 3 illustrate that the fluid from the slots **32, 33** passes in the direction generally the same as the direction of travel of the trim strip **T**. Furthermore, Crouse discloses that the air slots **32, 33** are directed in a downstream direction to maintain an onwardly or downstream biasing pressure on the trim strip **T** (see column 3, lines 18-22; column 4, lines 12-17; and column 5, lines 15-19). To provide an onwardly or downstream biasing pressure on the trim strip **T**, the fluid must be passed from the slots **32, 33** in the direction generally the same as the direction of travel of the trim strip **T**.

Because the fluid is passed from the slots **32, 33** of Crouse in the direction generally the same as the direction of travel of the trim strip **T**, Crouse fails to disclose,

and is not concerned with, a nozzle directing a stream of fluid into the area where the strip leaves a roll in a direction generally opposite to the direction of travel of the strip, as recited in **claim 10**. Therefore, **claim 10**, along with **claims 11-13, 19, and 20** which depend therefrom, are patentable over Crouse.


Claim 21 recites a nozzle that produces a fluid stream in a direction generally opposite to a direction of movement of an unadhered trim strip. As discussed above, Crouse merely discloses passing fluid in the direction generally the same as the direction of travel of the trim strip T. Therefore, Crouse fails to disclose, and is not concerned with, a nozzle that produces a fluid stream in a direction generally opposite to a direction of movement of an unadhered trim strip, as recited in **claim 21**. Therefore, **claim 21** is patentable over Crouse.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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